

Serial No. 10/605,818
Examiner: BASINGER, Sherman D.
Art Unit 3617

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REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-7, 13, 18, 23, 24, and 26-29 have been canceled; claims 30 and 31 have been added; and claims 8, 15, 20, 21, and 25 have been amended.

Claims 8-12, 14-17, 19-22, 25, 30, and 31 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 14-17, 19-23, and 26-29. The Examiner also objected to claims 13, 18, 24, and 25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but mentioned that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

For reasons of economy and to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Applicants made the following amendments:

Claims 1-7, 23, and 26-29 have been canceled, rendering the rejections against these claims moot. The Applicants may file these claims in a continuing application.

Claim 8 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 13. Consequently, claim 13 has been canceled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 and claims 9-12, and 14, which depend from it, should now be allowable.

Claim 15 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 18. Consequently, claim 18 has been canceled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 and claims 16-17, 19 and 20, which depend from it, should now be allowable.

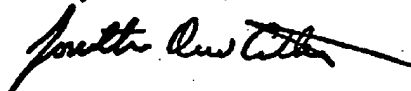
Claim 21 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 24. Consequently, claim 24 has been canceled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 and claims 22, which depends from it, should now be allowable.

Objected to claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 21. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 and new claims 30 and 31, which depend from it, should now be allowable.

Claim 20 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Namely to change "and" to "are". This change is not in response to any of the Examiner's claim rejections or objections, and no surrender of subject matter is intended thereby.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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